>

Title: Need to establish Central Cashew Board in Kollam, Kerala.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise this matter.

There are above three lakh employees dependent on the cashew industry in Kerala. The overwhelming majority of the workers are women belonging to SC/ST and economically backward sections. Presently, the processed cashew is mainly operated to developed countries and the economic recession has adversely affected the prospects of the international market. Hence, to sustain the industry it is imperative to increase the internal consumption and develop indigenous market and also to improve the domestic production of cashew.

For the comprehensive development of this industry, a Central Cashew Board is created for scientific research in the field and increasing the plantation area. It is a longstanding demand that a Central Cashew Board with its headquarters at Kollam in Kerala be created.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Sir, I would like to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati C.S. Sujatha.

MR SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up the Matters under Rule 377. There is some time now. I would allow some Members to raise their Matters under Rule 377.

Now, Shri Nikhil Kumar.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, please allow me raise an important matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When I called your name, you were not there. Since then you are coming and sitting here, you have not even said that you want to raise it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have raised my hand.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said it in sign language. Okay, you can speak now.

Shri Acharia, I have been waiting for you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the flight was delayed because of fog. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not my fault. What can I do? Parliament cannot stop functioning because there is fog in Kolkata.